

Prairie View A&M University

Digital Commons @PVAMU

---

All Theses

---

5-1939

## Vocational Opportunities for Negroes of Temple Texas

Murphy DuBois Marshall

*Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.pvamu.edu/pvamu-theses>

---

### Recommended Citation

Marshall, M. D. (1939). Vocational Opportunities for Negroes of Temple Texas. Retrieved from <https://digitalcommons.pvamu.edu/pvamu-theses/236>

This Undergraduate Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @PVAMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Theses by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @PVAMU. For more information, please contact [hvkoshy@pvamu.edu](mailto:hvkoshy@pvamu.edu).

VOCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEGROES  
OF TEMPLE, TEXAS

By

MURPHY DUBOIS MARSHALL



Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College

Prairie View, Texas

May, 1939



VOCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEGROES OF  
TEMPLE TEXAS

By

Murphy DuBois Marshall

A Thesis in Mechanic Arts Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of  
the Requirements for the Degree of

Bachelor of Science

in the

Division of Mechanic Arts

of the

Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College

Prairie View, Texas

May, 1939

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to  
the progressive Negroes of Temple,  
Texas.



"Work is not a curse, it is a prerogative of intelligence, the only means to manhood, and the measure of civilization. The growth of a sentiment which despises work is an appeal from civilization to barbarism.

Calvin Coolidge

## REASONS OF WRITER

1. To show the past and present vocational conditions that exist in Temple, Texas.

2. To show the importance of choosing your vocation.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

3. To show the various vocations that may be followed.

4. To show the various vocations that may be followed.

5. To show the various vocations that may be followed.

6. To show the various vocations that may be followed.

7. To show the various vocations that may be followed.

8. To show the various vocations that may be followed.

9. To show the various vocations that may be followed.

10. To show the various vocations that may be followed.

11. To show the various vocations that may be followed.

12. To show the various vocations that may be followed.

13. To show the various vocations that may be followed.

14. To show the various vocations that may be followed.

15. To show the various vocations that may be followed.

16. To show the various vocations that may be followed.

17. To show the various vocations that may be followed.

18. To show the various vocations that may be followed.

19. To show the various vocations that may be followed.

20. To show the various vocations that may be followed.



## PURPOSE OF THESIS

1. To show the past and present vocational conditions that exist in Temple, Texas.
2. To show the importance of choosing your vocation.
3. To show the various vocations that may be followed.
4. To show the progressive vocations that may be followed.
5. To distinguish the progressive from the non-progressive vocations.
6. Types of workers for various vocations.
7. To show the opportunities for success in various vocations.

ooOoo

# CHAPTER I

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Dedication	1
Acknowledgment	iii
Purpose of Thesis	iv
Chapter	
I INTRODUCTION	1
II STATUS OF THE NEGROES OF TEMPLE, TEXAS	3
III VARIOUS VOCATIONS THAT MAY BE FOLLOWED	7
IV HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR VOCATION	13
V CONCLUSION	15
BIBLIOGRAPHY	16

\*\*\*\*\*



## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

First let us define the word vocation. Vocation, as Webster states it, is an occupation, trade or profession which one may follow for a livelihood. Opportunities, as Webster states it, are convenient times or occasions for something, or good chances. Combining the two, one could easily say that vocational opportunities are those opportunities which one may follow for a progressive livelihood.

Bell County is located in Central Texas with the following adjoining counties: Coryell on the north, Lampasas on the northeast, McLennan on the northwest, Williamson on the south, Milam on the Southeast, Falls on the east, and Burnett on the west.

Temple is located in the central east portion of Bell County. West of Temple are the following towns: Dilleen, Bartlett, Belton, and Holland. South of Temple is Rogers.

The population of Bell County is thirty-four thousand one hundred and two of which six thousand three hundred and thirty-four are Negroes, and the remaining twenty-seven thousand one hundred and sixty-eight are white and other races. Among the two hundred and fifty-four counties of Texas, Bell County is one of the thirty largest counties of Texas in population and among the ten largest in area. Bell County covers an area of six hundred and fourteen



thousand five hundred and eighty-six acres of which six hundred and thirteen thousand one hundred and thirty-six are in the rural, and one thousand one hundred and fifty are in the urban.

The population of Temple is sixteen thousand seven hundred and sixty-eight, of which three thousand one hundred are Negroes and the remaining thirteen thousand six hundred and sixty-eight are whites and other races. Among the six towns of Bell County, Temple is the largest in population and area.

---

Bell County Tax Assessor, Belton, Texas

Mexicans are included in White population.



## CHAPTER II

### STATUS OF THE NEGROES OF TEMPLE, TEXAS

The Negroes of Temple rely upon farming, domestic service, business enterprises and common labor as their sources of income.

There are thirty-four Negroes that operate farms with an average of Eight Hundred Dollars per year, and an average family of four. The principle crops grown on the farms are cotton, and corn. A small garden containing such vegetables as beans, tomatoes, cabbage, corn, okra and potatoes are found on all farms, however, it cannot adequately supply a family of four with sufficient food, consequently they must resort to canned foods to complete their diet.

The Negro farm is poorly equipped and has very few farm implements, poor working stock, etc.

Since the government has limited the production of cotton, the Negro farmers are confronted with what to plant. This problem remains partially unsolved, however, soil building crops, such as peas and clovers, are planted.

Statistics show that farming has rapidly decreased in the past nine years which is due to the over production of cotton. The Negro operators have decreased from four hundred and three to seventy-four since 1930. The total acreage has decreased from eighteen thousand two hundred and eighty-four to fourteen thousand

one hundred and seventy-one since 1930, and approximately one-fourth of the crops harvested are failures. In 1934, four thousand six hundred and eighty-nine crops were harvested and one thousand six hundred and thirty-three were a failure.

U. S. Department of Commerce. Vol. 1

Bell County Tax Assessor, Belton, Texas

Table I shows the decrease in Negro farm operators and size of farms in average for 1930, 1935 and 1938. The decrease in operators since 1930 is 32%, and the decrease in average since 1930 is 14,191.



TABLE I

Number of Negro Farm Operators	Year	Size of Farm in Acreage
403	1930	18,284
174	1935	6,945
74	1938	4,113

Table I shows the decrease in Negro farm operators and size of farms in acreage for 1930, 1935 and 1938. The decrease in operators since 1930 is 329, and the decrease in acreage since 1930 is 14,171.

ooOooOoo

TABLE II

## STATISTICS OF BELL COUNTY

<u>Towns</u>	<u>Number of Negroes</u>	<u>Number of Whites</u>
Bartlett	380	1,500
Belton	2,300	2,500
Holland	204	3,000
Killeén	0	3,500
Rogers	350	1,600
Temple	<u>3,100</u>	<u>13,668</u>
Total	6,334	25,768

Total Population of Bell County 32,102

Number rural acres 613,136

Number urban acres 1,450

Total acres 614,586

---

Bell County Tax Assessor, Belton, Texas



### CHAPTER III

#### VARIOUS VOCATIONS THAT MAY BE FOLLOWED

Domestic and personal service for the white race is the broadest field when number employed is considered and smallest when salaries are considered. Ninety-five percent of the women that work engage in domestic and personal service with an average salary of Four Dollars and Fifty Cents per week for seven hours work a day. Domestic workers must prepare breakfast, dinner and supper, wash, iron, scrub and in some instances nurse. Domestic service has been on a gradual decline in salary for the past ten years. This is due to women being forced to work and help support their families, which has caused an over crowded field, causing the salaries to be decreased.

#### NEGRO BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

The Negro businesses of Temple comprise one grocery store, one tailor shop, and three remarkable cafes. The various enterprises would be very progressive if they could receive the patronage of twenty-five percent of the members of their race. The Negroes of Temple do not patronize their race businesses and are very inappreciative toward the advancement of the members of their race.

#### COMMON LABORS

The common labors constitute a far greater percent of the Negro population than other occupations. This is partially due to



the fact that Negroes are employed in hospitals, at the Santa Fe Railway Station, Freight House, Freight Shed and the Round House, the M. K. & T. Station and Freight Shed, the Brazil Cotton Company and the oil mill during the fall seasons.

### PROGRESSIVE VOCATIONS FOR NEGROES

The Bureau of the Census, said Secretary Davis when he met to discuss "A Job for Every Home" listed some two thousand different occupations, or kinds of jobs at which Negroes may work. Among the two thousand different jobs the following would not only contribute to the progress of the Negroes, but would also be of financial progress to the Negro:

1. Truck farming.
2. Poultry production.
3. Painting and paper hanging.
4. Electrical repair.
5. Wood-work and carpentry
6. Tailoring
7. Auto service
8. Canning
9. Dentistry

### TRUCK FARMING

The most vital vocation is truck farming. The fact is, we must eat and fresh vegetables are preferable to canned vegetables. Negro farmers of Temple do not engage in truck farming, and very



seldom do they plant a garden that will adequately supply the family with fresh vegetables the year round. The opportunities are awaiting progressive Negro truck farmers who will place fresh vegetables on the market daily.

### POULTRY PRODUCTION

Among the nine progressive vocations of Temple, poultry would be the most progressive. Temple, being the hospital center of central Texas, the industrial center of Bell County and adjoining counties, has caused the consumption of poultry products to exceed the production, consequently, there is a demand. Not only is there a demand for poultry products of the highest available quality, but there is a demand for a well versed poultry farmer, that has a modern, well kept and equipped poultry farm that will help to adequately supply the four hospitals, three poultry companies and the grocery stores with the highest quality of eggs and hens daily.

There are no poultry farms operated by Negroes that help supply the hospitals, poultry companies and grocery stores of Temple. The knowledge of scientific farming of the Negroes of Temple is so limited until the overhead expenses exceed the value of the production, consequently they must resort to peddling their small production so that they can get the highest possible prices.



### PAINING AND PAPER HANGING

Although a coat of paint adds greatly to the appearance of buildings or machinery, the chief purpose for painting is not only for beautification and protection but for light reflection and sanitation as well.

The Negroes of Temple do not follow papering nor painting as a single vocation. The painters are carpenters as well as paper hangers. To strictly follow painting as an only means of livelihood would not be profitable because the Negro ownership is too small and the Negro businesses that would necessitate signs of advertisement are too few. Painting along with the refinishing of furniture and paper-hanging would be profitable.

### ELECTRICAL REPAIR

The discovery of electricity has caused many inventions for the use of same. Seventy-five percent of the urban homes are lighted by electricity and electrical appliances, such as irons, fans, radios, cigarette lighters, table lamps, hair dressing equipment and refrigerators. They may be easily connected. These appliances necessitate repair. There are no electrical repair shops in Temple operated by Negroes.

### WOODWORK AND CARPENTRY

Being evident that we must have some form of shelter constructed of stone, brick or frame, it is imperative to secure



skilled and experienced workmen for the job. Constant use and nonuse necessitates repairs. When repaired they should be and look as new, Skilled workmen are of major importance.

On my survey of Temple the casual observation of the housing conditions and yards indicated that Negroes were the occupants of the community. The five carpenters of Temple are not sufficient to keep repairs up, or the owners are not financially able to have repairs made. Negro carpenters do not come up to the qualifications in quality nor quantity.

#### TAILORING

A good cleaning and pressing shop would be very progressive if located in Temple. If efficient service is given progress will be obtained. There is one Negro cleaning and pressing shop in Temple. The prices are the same as those of other shops, but the quality of work does not come up to the standard. Water can not be used as effectively as cleaning fluids and the same results obtained, nor can the results of a steam press be obtained from an electric iron. Adequate equipment is necessary to successfully do any job as it should be done.

#### AUTO SERVICE

Auto service as a vocation is not followed in Temple by Negroes. A good filling station with other auto services would be very progressive if in a good location. There are approximately three hundred Negroes that operate cars in Temple. Quick courteous



service would entice the patronage of ninety-five percent of the Negroes that operate cars, if the prices are the same as those of other filling stations.

### CANNING

The canning industry is open for Negroes of Temple, and could easily be operated in connection with truck farming. There are not any Negroes following canning as a vocation.

### DENTISTRY

An aspiring dentist could be very progressive in Temple because the teeth of the three thousand one hundred Negroes in Temple need medical attention. Fifty percent of the Negro patronage goes to White dentists because of more satisfactory service.

It is vitally important that we find and undertake that particular job which is ours. If each of us do what the world's work will be done with the least waste of human energy and effort, and it will be well done.

### THESE QUESTIONS

We may say that there are three types of workers in the world, the loafers, the dependents and the workers. The loafers



## CHAPTER IV

### HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR VOCATION

In choosing your vocation or job, make sure it is yours before you get into it and not after you have made a failure of it because it was not yours in the beginning. Choose your vocation according to the type of work that will stimulate your imagination, that will arouse your ambition and the type of work you are best fitted to do. If this is done it will be your job rather than somebody else's. Why choose any job? Some Negroes seem to have a poor idea of work. They always choose freedom to do as they please, or to do nothing at all if they please. The desire to be free of the eternal grind of our job must at some time seize upon every worker, upon the skilled mechanic, the farmer, the man in the office, the professional man, the business man, and the man in public service. What about the boy or girl who has not entered into this employment? Do you think they are eager to enter into this grind and discipline of the job?

It is vitally important that we find and undertake that particular job which is ours. If each of us do that the world's work will be done with the least waste of human capacity and effort, and it will be well done.

### TYPES OF WORKERS

We may say that there are three types of workers in the world, the loafers, the dependents and the workers. The loafers



include those who make loafing a profession--the professional bums, beggars, tramps and the idle rich. The dependents include those unable to work, young children, the very old, the physically disabled and mentally deficient. The workers embrace the rest of us. The workers constitute by far the smallest portion of the six thousand three hundred and thirty-four Negroes of Bell County. The workers of Temple are very few in number and efficient in quality.

The Negroes seem to like the idea of earned money with a definite salary rather than waiting jobs for themselves where they may be their own boss.

Before entering a vocation analyze it and be sure that you are interested, otherwise you are more likely to be a failure. The opportunities for success are becoming more significant in that common labor jobs have decreased in salary as well as in number.

You should be happy in the work you have chosen to do and when the job ceases to yield happiness, remove or reduce your ambition and curiosity and become a humdrum, uninteresting routine, then a change should be made. It is necessary for our happiness if not for our very existence.



## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION

The present vocational conditions for Negroes are not as limited as may be thought. Painting and paper hanging, truck farming, poultry production, electrical repair, wood work and carpentry, tailoring, auto service, canning and dentistry should be profitably engaged in for there is a demand for these. The Negroes seem to like the idea of common labor with a definite salary rather than making jobs for themselves where they may be their own boss.

Before entering a vocation analyze it and be sure that you are interested, otherwise you are more likely to be a failure. The opportunities for success are becoming more significant in that common labor jobs have decreased in salary as well as in number.

You should be happy in the work you have chosen to do and when the job ceases to yield happiness, ceases to satisfy your ambition and curiosity and becomes a humdrum, uninspiring routine, then a change should be made. Work is necessary for our happiness if not for our very existence.

\*\*\*\*\*

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Roper, Daniel C., Secretary, U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Vol. I, 1935.
2. Hall, Charles I., Specialist, Progress of the Negro, Negro Statistics, 1935.
3. Davis, J. J. & Wright, J. C. You and Your Job. New York, 1935.
4. Bureau of the Census. Agriculture. Statistics, Texas, 1935.
5. Bell County Tax Assessor, Belton, Texas.
6. Lord, E. W. The Fundamentals of Business. Ronaed Press Company, Copyright, 1926.

\*\*\*\*\*